Rejoice! Our churches are open, and the Sunday Mass dispensation has been lifted. I welcome you back home to celebrate the Eucharist in communion with your brothers and sisters in Christ. This has been a challenging year for us all, but as Christians we know our God is always with us.

Our Diocese was founded July 29, 1853, amongst many challenges, but God always provides. He gave Vermont our first bishop, Louis deGoës briand. At this time in Vermont there were only 10 churches and approximately 20,000 Catholics being served by five priests.

Our Diocese was very much a missionary Diocese with limited resources and a small congregation of Catholics sprinkled throughout the state. The terrain was challenging, and the mostly Protestant state did not welcome Catholicism.

Bishop deGoës briand spent most of his own $250,000-inheritance to travel throughout the state to spread the Good News and build churches, schools and homes for the most vulnerable. The fruits of his labor paid off. By 1891, the number of Catholics more than doubled to 48,000 with 78 churches. In addition, he helped found eight academies and 16 parochial schools in the Diocese with seven congregations to women religious to staff them.

By the time he died in 1899, he had spent his entire fortune; he had only $2.12 to his name and a few old suits, noted Father Lance Harlow, pastor of Corpus Christi Parish in St. Johnsbury, who wrote a biography of the bishop in 2001.

Today we find our Diocese is again missionary territory, similar to what Bishop deGoës briand faced but with new challenges: Covid-19, declining population and a generation of young people disinterested in joining any type of formal religion.

We must face these challenges with the same fortitude and faith as our first leader and create new ways to engage young people and lay leaders while keeping our faith community connected in new and creative ways and always continuing to support the most vulnerable among us through emergency aid.

All of these ministries are supported by the Bishop’s Annual Appeal.

On July 29, we will celebrate Founder’s Day of Giving to encourage gifts to the Bishop’s Annual Appeal and support the mission of our Diocese. We have received an anonymous matching grant that will match any gift made online up to $20,000. If you have not yet made a gift to the appeal or would like to make an additional gift online, visit vermontcatholic.org/giveonline.

— Ellen Kane is the Executive Director of Development and Communication for the Diocese of Burlington
Upcoming Events

07|28 WEDNESDAY
Summer Reflection Series
St. Anne’s Shrine, Isle La Motte • 11:15 am
Join us this week when Rev. David Theroux, SSE presents “Saints Martha & Mary and the Charism of Edmundite Hospitality.” Program begins with Mass at 11:15 am followed by presentation. Lunch is available for purchase, or you may bring your own. All are welcome! Reservations are appreciated though not necessary and can be made by calling (802) 928-3362.

08|07 SATURDAY
Our Lady of Fatima Devotions
Holy Family, Essex Junction • 8 am
Beginning with Rosary at 8 am, Confessions, and followed by Mass at 8:30 am.

08|13, 14, 15 FRI, SAT, SUN
Retreat on The Book of Revelation
Our Lady of Ephesus House, Jamaica
Fr. Dominique Faure, chaplain of Catholic Discipleship College in the diocese of Auckland, New Zealand, will lead a retreat on the book of Revelation. Learn more: ourladyofephesushouseofprayer.org, or call (802) 896-6000.

08|14 SATURDAY
Padre Pio Devotions
Holy Family, Essex Junction • 8 am
Rosary at 8 am followed by Mass and an opportunity to learn more about Padre Pio.

08|15 SUNDAY
Prayer Day on the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary
St. Anne’s Shrine, Isle La Motte • 10:30 am - 2 pm
Join us for Mass, followed by the Rosary, and a procession. Please bring your own lunch for picnic and enjoy the beach.

08|26 THURSDAY
Catholic Movie Series
St. John Vianney, S. Burlington
6:15 pm - 9 pm
Once a month, for 3 months, we will be showing a movie followed by a panel discussion. Popcorn will be available! In August, “Just Mercy.” This movie tells the story of attorney Bryan Stevenson, death-row inmate Walter McMillian, and the Equal Justice Initiative. It explores themes such as the death penalty, the criminal justice system, and racial injustice. In September: “Pope Francis: A Man of His Word.” In October: “Entertaining Angels: The Dorothy Day Story.”

09|25 SATURDAY
Vermont Catholic Daughters of America Retreat
Our Lady of Angels, Randolph • 9:30 am - 1:30 pm
Deacon Gesualdo Schneider will lead the retreat, open to all women aged 18 and over. This event is free and includes lunch. There will be an opportunity for a goodwill donation to support the Knights of Columbus’s planned purchase of an ultrasound machine. Registration info available soon.

DIOCESE OF BURLINGTON CAREERS

Diocesan Offices: Development and Communication Coordinator
Diocesan Offices: Diocesan Catechetical Leader
Diocesan Offices: Diocesan Youth & Young Adult Minister
Diocesan Offices: Staff Accountant

The Loretto Home, Rutland:
Full-Time and Part-Time LNA or Nurse Aide — $500 Sign-On Bonus for Full-Time!

Michaud Manor Home, Derby Line:
LNA or Nurse Aide P/T Day Shift

St. Joseph Kervick Home, Rutland:
Full-Time and Part-Time LNA or Nurse Aide — $500 Sign-On Bonus for Full-Time!

St. Joseph’s Residential Care Home, Burlington:
Home Administrator
St. Joseph’s Residential Care Home, Burlington:
Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) — $1,000 Sign-On Bonus
St. Joseph’s Residential Care Home, Burlington:
Maintenance Technician

vermontcatholic.org/careers

LOVE ONE ANOTHER

JULY 25–31, 2021

CHALLENGES TO GROW YOUR MARRIAGE

BEING GRATEFUL
What are you most grateful for in your marriage? Share with each other every day this week what you appreciate most in your spouse. Follow up with a gift to your better half using their love language.

vermontcatholic.org/marriagechallenge

As of July 14, 2021: $1,004,707
To learn more or make a gift visit: vermontcatholic.org/giveonline

GOAL: $2,502,465

UPDATE

40%

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